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# San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 17, 2006**

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### **AGUIRRE CALLS PENSION BOARD VOTE TO INDEMNIFY FORMER RETIREMENT OFFICIALS CHAPIN AND GRISSOM 'SHAMEFUL'**

**San Diego, CA:** San Diego City Attorney Mike Aguirre today characterized as shameful today's vote by the San Diego City Employees Retirement System Board (SDCERS) to indemnify former Board attorney Lorraine Chapin and administrator Lawrence Grissom.

"Shameful is the only word to describe what the Pension Board did today," commented Aguirre. "These dollars should be going to pension beneficiaries not to the attorneys for former employees who have been criminally charged," he added.

On January 6, a federal grand jury returned criminal indictments against Grissom, Chapin and three former trustees including firefighter union president Ron Saathoff. They were charged with multiple felonies, including conspiracy, wire and mail fraud and aiding and abetting. The indictment said the defendants conspired to illegally obtain enhanced retirement benefits for themselves in exchange for allowing the financially strapped city to under fund the pension system.

Passing by a 7-2 margin, today's vote to indemnify marked the second time the SDCERS Board took up the issue. The Board first visited this proposition on January 30 but failed to muster the required seven votes needed to pass.

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